

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 00304 051955Z

72

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

EB-07 /067 W

----- 032809

R 051340Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6358

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0304

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, LT, BC

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA CRITICIZES LESOTHO'S POSITION ON DETENTE

REF: LUSAKA 326

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ME MARCH 4, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE COMMENTED ON LESOTHO FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH KOTSOKWANE'S STATEMENT DURING THE RECENT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING CRITICIZING PRESIDENTS OF BOTSWANA, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA FOR TALKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA ON THE RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTE. ALSO, DURING RADIO AND PRESS INTERVIEWS HERE, MOGWE DESCRIBED KOTSOKWANE'S STATEMENT AS "DOUBLE EDGED" AND "CRYPTIC."

2. MOGWE TOLD ME BOTSWANA WAS SURPRISED BY KOTSOKWANE'S POSITION SINCE LESOTHO HAD BEEN BRIEFED TWICE PRIOR TO THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 00304 051955Z

OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING ON THE TALKS BETWEEN THE

ANC NATIONALISTS AND THE THREE PRESIDENTS. MOGWE SAID HE EVEN WENT TO KOTSOKWANE'S HOTEL ROOM LATE AT NIGHT DURING THE RECENT OAU COUNCIL MEETING TO BRIEF HIM ON FEB 9 LUSAKA TALKS IN WHICH SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER PARTICIPATED. MOGWE SAID KOTSOKWANE AT NO TIME VOICED ANY OPPOSITION TO TALKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA ON RHODESIA.

3. MOGWE ASSERTED THAT KOHSOKWAND MADE TWO INTERVENTIONS AT THE OAU COUNCIL MEETING STRESSING THE ABSENCE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE UN OHE HOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID SYSTEM AND RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA. HE MADE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE EFFORTS TO WORK TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA AND THE EVENTS IN WEST AFRICA INCLUDING TOLBERT-VORSTER MEETING AND THE VISIT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC DELEGATION TO SOUTH AFRICA. MOGWE SAID BOTSWANA SAW NOTHING WRONG IN TALKING WITH SOUTH AFRICA ABOUT RHODESIA AS LONG AS THE ANC NATIONALISTS WERE ALSO INVOLVED.

4. COMMENT: GOB OFFICIALS SEEM TO BE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT LESOTHO'S POSITION, PARTICULARLY SINCE LESOTHO TOPPED THE LIST OF COUNTRIES FAVORING DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN 1971. THESE OFFICIALS FEEL THAT LESOTHO'S CURRENT POSITION REFLECTS (A) THE PERSONAL AMBITIONS OF KOTSOKWANE TO CARVE OUT A LEADERSHIP ROLE FOR HIMSELF IN AFRICA; AND (B) THE GOL DESIRE TO ENHANCE ITS CREDIBILITY AMONG AFRICAN NATIONALIST GOVERNMENTS.

BOLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GABORO00304
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750077-0608
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750381/aaaacvek.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LUSAKA 326
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOTSWANA CRITICIZES LESOTHO'S POSITION ON DETENTE
TAGS: PFOR, LT, BC, SF, TZ, ZA, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006